CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1986 AT 10:30 A.M. IN BC-110, SGW CAMPUS

ATTENDANCE:

Present Were:

C.H. Langford (Chairman), Dean R. Parker, Dean M.N.S. Swamy, Vice-Dean P. Albert, Dr. J. Doukas, Dr. P. Fazio, Dr. D. Pariser, Dr. C. Ross, Dr. P. Shizgal, Dr. M. Szabo, Audrey J. Williams, S. Bulzan (Secretary)

Absent:

Hans Fotouhinia, Ronda Stoller

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED AND DISTRIBUTED TO THE SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

SRC-86-12-03-D1	NSERC REVIEW
SRC-86-12-03-D2	REGLEMENTS RELATIFS AUX CONFLITS D'INTERETS EN RECHERCHE EXCLUSIVE
SRC-86-12-03-D3	UNIVERSITY POST-GRADUATE TRAINING: IS THE PIPELINE TOO LONG? A DISCUSSION PAPER PREPARED BY THE CMA SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Dr. C.H. Langford occupied the chair.

I. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1.1 Dr. Shizgal suggested an addition to the agenda: a possible partition of capital campaign.

1.2 It was moved and seconded (Szabo, Ross) and unanimously RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the Senate Research Committee meeting of October 14, 1986, be approved.

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II. NSERC INCENTIVES

2.1 Chairman discussed Matching Funds program and what policies will be implemented regarding distribution of money received. As an incentive, NSERC will provide the university with:

10% of funds reported in the 1st year;
20% of funds reported in the 2nd year;
30% of funds reported in the 3rd year.

2.2 Chairman's estimate for Concordia is:

$ 30,000 in the 1st year;
$ 60,000 in the 2nd year;
$100,000 in the 3rd year.

2.3 Chairman stressed that there will not be a rigid formula when dealing with funds from NSERC.

2.4 Discussion developed re: a) definition of priorities;
b) internal distribution mechanism

Some possibilities mentioned by the Committee members:
a) that weight should be given to people generating money, but that this should not act as a guarantee;
b) that money should go to those areas where it would have largest impact, e.g. new researchers or new ventures;
c) that these decisions should be left up to each individual faculty (Deans).

2.5 Chairman stated that the Senate Research Committee has the opportunity to review effectiveness in which job is done with respect to notion of incentives in present mechanisms of internal fund distribution. Important to enjoy credibility among colleagues and achieve balance.

2.6 Chairman suggested that it would be useful to think of our role in terms of what priority elements should be present and what mechanisms should exist.

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2.7 In an attempt to determine possible mechanisms, the Office of Research Services will provide the committee with the documents regarding internal mechanisms for distribution of NSERC, FCAR AND SSHRC general research grants.

2.8 Chairman stated that Senate Research Committee should address issues of policy - mechanism and guidelines on priorities for fund distribution.

Item 2 to be put back on agenda for next Senate Research Committee meeting. Documents to be distributed to members prior to meeting.

III. NSERC REVIEW (supported by NSERC REVIEW SRC-86-11-03-D1)

3.1 Chairman discussed NSERC's plan to terminate those programs of lower priority.

3.2 NSERC asking for reaction from universities.

3.3 Chairman to prepare response from Concordia University that states, in general terms, that task force approach is reasonable in:

a) seeing operating grant program as fundamental;
b) combining graduate fellowships and post-doctoral fellowships.

3.4 Chairman stated that from Concordia's point of view, NSERC's reducing their program structures from the existing 6 major activities to the proposed 4, creates no problem.

IV. ACFAS PRIZES

4.1 Chairman stressed the need for Concordia people to participate in "L'Association canadienne-francaise pour l'avancement des sciences" and that faculty members should be nominated for prizes.

4.2 ACFAS pamphlets containing registration form and further information on available prizes will be sent to committee members.

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V. GUIDELINES ON CONFLICT OF INTEREST (supported by "Reglements relatifs aux conflits d'interets en recherche exclusive" SRC-86-11-03-D2)

5.1 Chairman discussed creation of a sub-committee on this subject.

5.2 Deans Albert and Swamy were asked to suggest names of two people to be part of this sub-committee.

5.3 Sub-committee to present preliminary draft for discussion with CUFA and the research community.

VI. EXTERNALLY FUNDED RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

6.1 Dean Szabo discussed need to increase monies for graduate students and research. This would be done by creating a mechanism through Graduate Studies Office and faculties in order to identify top students early and get representation into funding agencies (particularly NSERC, FCAR).

6.2 Dean Szabo suggested that a panel or structure be created to help students apply to these agencies, in connection with special M.A. Scholarships.

6.3 NSERC representatives to visit Concordia January '87 in order to raise level of awareness. FCAR and SSHRC involvement important in order to involve Quebec commitment.

This agenda item to be discussed further at later meeting.

VII. CANADIAN MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION SUBMISSION TO CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE SCHOOLS (supported by "University Post-Graduate Training..." SRC-86-11-03-D3

7.1 Dean Szabo discussed document SRC-86-11-03-D3 (distributed to Committee members) and its recommendation that funding periods be shortened and completion periods of degrees shortened.

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7.2 Dean Szabo indicated that this initiative may dictate university policy.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Dr. Shizgal suggested a possible partition of capital campaign which will be discussed at a later meeting.

8.2 Members mentioned creating a regular time for the Senate Research Committee meetings to be held.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.